Bond

No.1 for exam success

English 11+ Practice Test

Read the instructions carefully.

- Do not begin the test or open the booklet until told to do so.
- Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
- Ring the correct letter from the options given to answer each question.
- You may do rough working on a separate sheet of paper.
- If you make a mistake cross out the mistake and write the new answer clearly.
- You will have 50 minutes to complete the test.

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Practice Test

50 Questions:
50 Minutes

English 11+

Read the extract carefully, then answer the questions.

'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens tells the story of mean and lonely Mr Scrooge, who, on Christmas Eve, meets the ghosts of the past, present and future, who frighten him into changing his ways.

Once upon a time – of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve – old Scrooge sat busy in his counting house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already – it had not been light all day – and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again. "Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

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"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round – apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that – as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

The clerk in the Tank involuntarily applauded. Becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.

"Let me hear another sound from you," said Scrooge, "and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation! You're quite a powerful speaker, sir," he added, turning to his nephew. "I wonder you don't go into Parliament."

"Don't be angry, uncle. Come! Dine with us tomorrow."

(Adapted from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens)

Total

10

Text continues over the page

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1 Which day does the story take place on? Circle the correct letter. 1

a New Year's Eve

b Boxing Day

c New Year's Day

d Christmas Day

e Christmas Eve

2 What was the weather like? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Cold and rainy

b Cold and sunny

c Rainy and warm

d Foggy and cold

e Windy and warm

3 How do people outside try to keep warm? Circle the correct letter. 1

a They keep their hands in their pockets.

b They whistle to keep cheerful.

c They wear thick overcoats.

d They stamp their feet.

e They walk very quickly.

4 At what time of day does the story open? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Before dawn

b At breakfast time

c Mid morning

d Afternoon

e Night-time

5 What looked like phantoms in the fog? Circle the correct letter. 1

a The people passing by.

b The light of the candles.

c The horses and carriages.

d The houses.

e The church spires.

Total 5

Continue to the next page

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6 Why did Scrooge have the door of his counting house open? Circle the correct letter. 1

a To watch the people in the street.

b To watch his clerk.

c To see if his nephew was coming.

d To let some air into the room.

e To talk to his clerk.

7 What was the clerk's main job? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Copying letters.

b Keeping the fire going.

c Answering the telephone.

d Guarding the office.

e Helping customers.

8 Why did the clerk have such a small fire? Circle the correct letter. 1

a He was too busy working.

b He was quite warm enough.

c There was no more coal.

d Scrooge would not let him have any more coal.

e He was going home soon.

9 What did the clerk use to try to keep warm? 1

1 A white scarf **2** Thick boots **3** A candle **4** A fire **5** A hat

Circle the correct letter.

a 1 and 2

b 3, 4 and 5

c 2 and 4

d 3

e 1, 3 and 4

10 What word best describes Scrooge's nephew when he comes in? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Angry

b Sad

c Cold

d Excited

e Miserable

Total 5

Text continues over the page

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11 What does the word 'morose' mean (line 29)? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Unkind

b Generous

c Miserable

d Ill

e Old

12 Why does Scrooge think people are fools to call Christmas a merry time? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Because they are richer and wiser.

b Because presents don't make them happy.

c Because they are older and poorer.

d Because it is over very quickly.

e Because the weather is always so cold.

13 How do you cook a Christmas pudding? Circle the correct letter. 1

a You bake it.

b You boil it.

c You fry it.

d You grill it.

e You steam it.

14 What does Scrooge think that his nephew finds himself doing at Christmas? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Eating and drinking a lot.

b Giving presents.

c Going away on holiday.

d Paying bills and settling his accounts.

e Seeing his friends.

15 Why does Scrooge's nephew like Christmas? Circle the correct letter. 1

a It makes him richer.

b It is cold and sunny.

c He gets time off work.

d People are kind to each other.

e He comes to see his uncle.

Total 5

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16 The clerk is described as 'not being a man of a strong imagination' (line 16). What does this mean here? Circle the correct letter. 1

a He is not strong.

b He is not very clever.

c He is unhealthy.

d He is mad.

e He is old.

17 What happened when the clerk poked the fire? Circle the correct letter. 1

a It burned brighter.

b It warmed the room more.

c Nothing.

d The flames got smaller.

e It went out.

18 Scrooge said to his clerk, "…you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation." (line 58). What does he mean? Circle the correct letter. 1

a You will have Christmas Day off because you will lose your job.

b You will have to work on Christmas Day and lose your pay.

c Your Christmas will be a very miserable one.

d You will have a good Christmas because you will be warm.

e On Christmas Day I will remove your chair.

19 What type of work does Scrooge suggest to his nephew? Circle the right letter. 1

a Clerk

b Member of Parliament

c Doctor

d Soldier

e Lawyer

20 Which word best sums up Scrooge's personality? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Foolish

b Cheerful

c Brave

d Mean

e Sensible

Total 5

Text continues over the page

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21 What is the most important thing in Scrooge's life? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Being unkind to his clerk.

b Seeing his nephew.

c Making money.

d Keeping warm.

e Helping people.

22 What is Scrooge's general view of people? Circle the correct letter. 1

a They are fools.

b They are poor.

c They are unpleasant.

d They are kind.

e They are lazy.

Answer the following questions about these words and phrases.

23 Which word in this sentence is an adjective? Circle the correct letter. 1

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

a Don't

b Be

c Cross

d Uncle

e Said

f The

g Nephew

24 What parts of speech are '**Nature**' (line 9) and '**stake**' (line 39)? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Adverbs

b Nouns

c Prepositions

d Adjectives

e Verbs

Total 4

Continue to the next page

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25 Which of these words is a preposition? Circle the correct letter. 1

a Open (line 11)

b Kept (line 14)

c Imagination (line 17)

d Upon (line 19)

e Quickly (line 19)

In this extract there are a number of spelling mistakes. Circle the letter where the spelling mistake is underlined or, if there isn't a spelling mistake, circle the letter X.

26 He caught sight of the house beyond, but, when he drew nearer, it disappeared 1

a **b** **c**

sudenly behind the neighbouring hedge.

d **x**

27 A feeling of incredible anger, as he waited hopelessly outside, began to grow 1

a **b** **c**

silently within him.

d **x**

28 The door swung noisily open, without any human presence visible. 1

a **b**

Nervously he started forward, hopeing that the owner would appear.

c **d** **e** **x**

29 "Boy!" called an agetated voice. Henry jumped, frightened by the sudden sound 1

a **b** **c**

echoing in the empty hall.

d **x**

30 A wizened, ancient man, clothed all in a black gown, was standing silently, 1

a **b** **c**

hiden by obscuring shadows.

d **x**

31 A scrawny hand clutched his. It was cold as marbel. He could see a beaked nose 1

a **b** **c**

and peering weasel's eyes.

d **x**

Total 7

Text continues over the page

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32 He tried impatiently to pull away, but the grip silently tightened. 1

a **b**

An imense feeling of dread started to invade his body.

c **d** **x**

33 He stared hard, trying to imagine how he might escape those aweful eyes. 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

In these sentences mistakes have been made in the use of punctuation and capital letters. Circle the letter where the mistake is or, if there isn't a mistake, circle the letter X.

34 Emma hurtled outside and shouted, "Help, Uncle Sam, help! Peter's injured" 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

35 I'd hardly been in a house with a pool before, though wed rented one once. 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

36 The walls were lovely and light with windows in the roof. 1

a **b**

A door at the end led outside I hoped that it went into the garden.

c **d** **x**

37 It was a french book, which she couldn't read, though she hoped with luck 1

a **b** **c**

that her uncle could translate it.

d **x**

38 "Theres no hope, I'm afraid. The money's been stolen. We'll not see it again." 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

39 The enormous sack, weighted, with gold, was impossible to lift. It wouldn't budge. 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

40 "What's the worry" he asked. "You'll be there by nightfall if you don't lose the 1

a **b** **c**

path, or stop."

d **x**

41 The monkeys looked puzzled at the way the bananas were growing and some 1

a **b** **c**

even thought it was a trick.

d **x**

Total 10

Continue to the next page

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42 He waited thinking it would be dark soon. Then he'd leave, completely unseen. 1

a **b** **c** **d** **x**

In this extract, the letter below the best word or words needs to be chosen so the extract makes sense and uses correct English. Circle the correct letter.

43 He waited, silently hoping the beast couldn't wouldn't shouldn't could've return. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

44 The beast growled. There wasn't the best most hopeful greatest faintest hope 1

a **b** **c** **d**

of rescue.

45 He hoped that the branch would beer bear bare bring his weight. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

46 There was a loud crack. He hurried howled hurtled skipped to the ground. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

47 He ran slowly slyly kindly nervously towards the safety of the hill. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

48 He had almost completely utterly totally made it, when disaster struck. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

49 The beast, roars roaring roared roar loudly, stood over him. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

50 Its giant paw stealthily heavily slowly lightly came down on his head. 1

a **b** **c** **d**

Total 9

Paper Total 50

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